

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title as follows:

ALIGNING ~~OPTICAL~~ COMPONENTS OF AN ~~OPTICAL~~ A MEASURING SYSTEM

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As in the previous embodiment, a damper 70 may be provided on the lever 72 as shown in Fig. ~~6C~~6D or between the base plate 10 and the lifting platform 64, as shown in fig. ~~6D~~6C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A rod ~~88-89~~ is provided with a cam 94 at one end which abuts the upper spring 80 and a lever 96 at its other end. The rod ~~88-89~~ is rotatable about bearings 90, 92 in the fixed surface of the platform (not shown). Rotation of the lever 96 causes rotation of the rod 88 and cam 94. As the cam 94 abuts the upper spring 80, it raises or lowers the inner surface of the upper spring 80 as it rotates and thereby also raises and lowers the lifting platform 64 which is attached to the inner surface of the spring 80.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figs 7, 8 and 9 show top, side and ~~perspective~~ isometric views of the base plate 10 respectively. The base plate comprises a lower plate 110 and an upper plate 112 which is moveable relative to the lower plate. The upper and lower plates may be connected by means (not shown) which allow relative movement between them, such as magnetic or spring means.